



The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's

EXCITER

October 2008

Issue No. 451

LOOK INSIDE FOR DETAILS:

- The RARS General Meeting is the 1st Tuesday of the month.
- The RARS net meets every night @ 8 pm on 146.64.
- The RARS Technical and Trader's net is Saturdays @ 8:30 pm or following the RARS net.
- RARS meets for a monthly dinner on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

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It's Auction Time!

The October RARS meeting on Tuesday, October 7 will feature the annual auction.

PLEASE NOTE: We are meeting at a different location – First Alliance Church, 4400 Buffaloe Road, in east Raleigh. Everything you need to know is on the RARS website, <http://rars.org/auction.htm> including things to do if you're bringing items to sell.

If you are willing to help with the meeting setup, please arrive around 6:30pm. We can use some help in moving chairs and setting up tables.

Refreshments will be available at 7pm, the meeting will start at 7:30pm., and the auction will begin shortly thereafter.

Why We're Here: Hams and Bike MS 2008*

Article by Gary Pearce KN4AQ

I was shadowing Bob Bryan, the President of the Eastern NC Chapter of the MS Society. We'd left Rest Stop 3 a few miles back, and in the distance ahead there was a knot of people and bikes in the middle of the quiet, rural road. Not good.

As we pulled closer we could see that a female rider was lying on the pavement, right in the middle of the road. Two bikes had collided, and both riders went down. One was scraped up, and her wrist and elbow hurt. The other was still on the ground, bleeding a little from a gash on her forehead.

Another rider was on his cell phone, calling 911, but he didn't know exactly where they were. Around us were woods and fields - no buildings, intersections or addresses in sight. My GPS and computerized Street Atlas map pinpointed the location, and an ambulance was dispatched. I'd spent nearly a full day plotting the turns on the map from the cue sheet - now it proved time well spent.

On the air, I declared the emergency. Since Bob was the responsible MS official, and the ambulance was on the way, there wasn't much for the net to do, but it did alert the other MS officials, and let SAGS in the area know what they'd be encountering on that stretch of road. And it brought

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The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the Amateur Radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, the society incorporated a new RARS and obtained 501(c)(3) non-profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through amateur radio; to be of public service by providing

radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic need; to educate members in radio technique; and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining amateur radio licenses.

Anyone interested in amateur radio is eligible to apply for membership. Dues for regular licensed amateurs are \$18 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family mem-

bers pay \$5 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are \$12 per year. Dues for non-licensed associate members are \$9 per year. Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer or on the RARS website (RARS.org).



The *Exciter*

The *Exciter* is the official newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It appears each month as a PDF on the RARS website at www.rars.org. Members receive email notification when the latest version is available. Please provide your email address to the Treasurer.

The *Exciter* welcomes articles, advertising, and other contributions. To submit a piece to the newsletter, please contact the Editor.

The views expressed in the *Exciter* are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or RARS.

The Editor reserves the right to edit any and all pieces.

Editor:
Courtney Enzor
KI4HOS
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Column by **Selene Montgomery KG4RMT**

RARS President

There are lots of activities coming up to fill your calendars. Public service events are abundant, the RARS Auction will be held at the October meeting, the next local hamfest will be JARSFEST in November, and plans are being made for our holiday gathering in December. The best way to stay informed on these and other events is to visit the RARS website often to see the latest updates.

Speaking of the October auction meeting, remember the meeting location will be at the First Alliance Church, 4400 Buffaloe Rd. On the website is a link to Mapquest that will enable you to get directions from your location to the meeting site. As usual, refreshments will start around 7pm, a short meeting will be held at 7:30pm, and then the fun will begin. Bring a friend or two along. This is always an enjoyable event. If you bring items to sell (ham- or computer-related only), please mark your equipment clearly with your name, call sign, and the word "RESERVE" if there is one. See the website for further instructions.

There are so many opportunities to take an active role in amateur radio, whether by just tuning in, or whether you leave your home to participate in some activity. There are many new hams in the area that may need a friendly response or handshake in order to feel that they are a part of our great hobby. Let's make sure we all do our part to make them feel welcome.

RARS General Meeting

Date: First Tuesday of each month

Location: Forest Hills Baptist Church
201 Dixie Trail
Raleigh, NC 27607

Time: People begin arriving at 7 pm. The meeting officially begins at 7:30 pm.

RARS is your club and is here to serve your interests. If you have an idea for an activity, group or program, contact an officer or board member and share your thoughts.

RARS Monthly Dinner

Join us on the 2nd Tuesday of each month for the RARS dinner. It's open to everyone: RARS members, non-members, friends, and family – feel free to bring your little ones!

Golden Corral @ 6129 Glenwood Avenue in Raleigh. Dinner begins at 6:30 pm.

RARS Repeaters in Raleigh

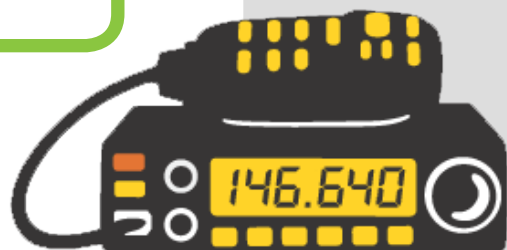
145.13 (82.5 PL), 146.64, & 444.525 (82.5 PL)

Join us for the nightly RARS net @ 8 pm on the 146.64. All hams holding a Technician class license or higher are invited to checkin. We welcome both RARS and non-RARS members to the net.

VE Testing

The RARS VEs will accept walk-in testing at the February, May, August, and November RARS meetings; the RARSfest in April; the Cary Swapfest in July; the JARSfest in November; and following RARS license classes.

Please bring a photo ID, your current license, a copy of your current license, and any CSCEs you have for credit. Visit www.rars.org for more information.



August 2008 RARS Net Reports

Checkins: 368	Special Interest Nets:
Traffic: 28/25	Checkins: 124
Minutes: 624	Minutes: 520
Sessions: 31	Sessions: 13

Upcoming Hamfests

October 3-5	QCWA International Convention Virginia Beach, VA http://qcwa-ch119.org/
October 4	Rock Hill Hamfest & Computer Expo Rock Hill, SC http://www.rockhillhamfest.com/
October 11	Pfafftown Swapfest Pfafftown, NC http://www.w4nc.com/
October 25	Sumter Hamfest Sumter, SC http://www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/2695/hamfest.htm
November 8	ARRL Alabama Section Convention Montgomery, AL http://www.w4ap.org/modules.php?name=Hamfest
November 15	BeachFest 2008 Garden City, SC http://www.w4gs.org/beachfest/
November 16	20th Annual JARSFEST Benson, NC http://jars.net/JARSFEST.htm

October

RARS Meeting

The October program will be our annual auction. It will begin at 7:30pm and will be held at First Alliance Church (4400 Buffalo Road, Raleigh, NC). Check out www.rars.org for more info.

October Birthdays

Mike	KB7NLA	10/1
Jay	KM4EP	10/2
Pete	K4PHS	10/2
Karl	K4LNX	10/3
Rod	AB4RG	10/5
Steve	KE4HFA	10/5
Todd	AG4AY	10/8
Mike	K4PSP	10/9
Chris	KI4MMV	10/10
Robbie	KI4TTZ	10/10
Frank	KY4W	10/11
Richard	KB4TKQ	10/15
Sean	KJ4EGT	10/17
Mike	K4DRT	10/19
Gary	KN4AQ	10/22
Ric	KI4PVC	10/25
Mike	W0MDS	10/26
Dan	KJ4FKB	10/30

Welcome to RARS!

Jack Foster	N6UYB
Glen Knightstep	KJ4GKO
Ron Rasberry	KJ4DNS

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one of our motorcycle team EMTs who was nearby to provide first aid. The net continued with routine business.

Moments later, Bruce Buck KC4UQN declared another emergency – another rider down, another ambulance needed, a few miles on the other side of Rest Stop 3.

An ambulance reached Bruce's location first. It was taking a long time for one to arrive at mine. There was an ambulance stationed at Rest Stop 3, and calls to Howard Barrett KG4MBD at the Rest Stop, and Bruce at the other accident, confirmed that the RS 3 ambulance had been dispatched to Bruce's incident. Bruce checked with his ambulance driver to make sure another one was on the way to my situation. It was, but it was coming from a lot farther away. It finally arrived, and took both riders to the hospital.

In this era of ubiquitous cell phones, it's rare for a SAG to be the first on scene with communications, although it can happen, as there is spotty cell coverage for much of the Bike MS course in rural Craven County outside New Bern. Our job is to get an official to the scene and make sure things run smoothly until the accident is cleared. We get the location pinpointed, notify the MS officials, relay medical advice and questions, and monitor the situation until it's over.

This year was a little worse than usual for hospital transports, but there are usually one or two a day for every event. The accidents are usually single-bike spills, or collisions between two bikes. Auto-bike collisions are rare. I can only remember one in the 17 years I've been participating. But there was a fatal incident in the Charlotte ride last year when a load hanging off the side of a pickup struck a rider.

This was Chapter President Bob Bryan's last MS Bike Tour – he's moving to Florida to run another charity operation. He got quite a send-off. I'll be around next year to break in yet another Chapter official. Some of us hams have been around longer and have seen a greater variety of bike events than the MS folks ever will. They say they couldn't do it without us, and I think they're right.

*Formerly known as the MS-150, Bike MS now hosts two-day rides totaling 60, 150 and 200 miles, with fun rides for the kids at the starting line. Well over 2000 bikes participated in this year's event.



Raleigh

NCSU - American Meteorological Society

SKYWARN Training

October 28, 2008

6pm – 9pm Basic SKYARN Spotter Training and 2008 Severe Weather Review

The National Weather Service will present a SKYWARN Severe Weather Spotter class preceded by a review of severe weather events in 2008.

The following topics will be covered...

- Severe weather warning process and ways to receive alerts
- Review of Central NC severe weather in 2008
- Thunderstorm development and severity
- Recognition of storm/cloud elements
- Anticipating storm motion, intensity and severity based on cloud structure

There is no cost to attend!

Location:

**North Carolina State University
Jordan Hall 1**

Room 1108

**This training is
open to the public.
See you there!**



For more information contact:
Jeff Orrock – (919) 515-8209 ext. 223

Jeff.orroch@noaa.gov

Or

Dan McKemy

d1mckemy@ncsu.edu

The Board of Directors met on Tuesday, August 19, 2008 at the Triangle Radio Reading Service on Six Forks Rd, Raleigh, NC. President Selene KG4RMT called the meeting to order at 7:15PM. The following persons were present: Selene KG4RMT, Hank K4HM, Virginia NC4VA, John AI4RT, Chuck K4HF, Mary Jo K4MJL, Rick KB4TKQ, Ken KI4OTO and Charlie WB4DCM.

After a review of the minutes of the July 15 meeting, the minutes were approved as corrected. The Secretary will send a corrected version to the Board.

Treasurer Greg KE4PAX was not present but had sent his report via email. President Selene then reviewed the information as provided by Greg. The documents provided by Greg were a Balance Sheet, Asset Record, and a Treasurers' Report.

VP Rick KB4TKQ reported that the September program will be on portable communications by Bob W4TTX. January's program will be on ARES. Rick has received comments that many of the members would like to have Johnny WA9SZL come back and do a second part to his program on power supplies. Donations for refreshments in August were \$26. Rick will be the auctioneer for the October meeting. In order to use the Wake County Government facility, we will need a sponsor which we currently do not have.

Education Committee Virginia NC4VA reported that we had 29 attendees in the Tech Class and they are expected to take the exam. The exam will be given at the First Alliance Church. She has sold 24 manuals out of a case. There will be a General Class offered in October. The next Tech Class will be sometime after the first of the year. We then had a discussion about a donation to the First Alliance Church for use of their facility. A motion was made and seconded to send a donation of \$100 to the church.

President Selene commented that we need a wireless mic system to use for our programs and meetings. Ken KI4OTO stated that he had some old equipment that might be usable. That raised an issue that the VE Team complained about noise from the meeting. President Selene will contact Forest Hills Baptist Church to see if there is an alternate room for use by the VE Team.

Webmaster Steve was absent so Hank K4HM reported that there was no report.

Public Service Chair John AI4RT reported that most events are coordinated by Helping Hams. Dick KD4ISC is working the Raleigh area for the MS Bike ride in New Bern. The Red Cross will need help in October with the NC State Fair. Training is required for that event and will be provided sometime in early October. Due to personal issues, John will not be available for a while but Dick KD4ISC will be back up.

Hamfest Chair Hank K4HM reported that we now have a date for the 2009 RARSFest. It is April 17-18. We have asked the Fair folks for a written confirmation.

ARRL Coordinator Chuck K4HF reported that Dayton will be the national convention for ARRL in 2009.

At Large Director Ken KI4OTO suggested that we do a portable operation similar to field day or a DX-expedition in counties around the state for county hunters. Audi and VW put solar batteries on some of their vehicles to maintain the electrical system in transit. He would like to pursue donations of these solar batteries to RARS.

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Old Business:

- The October meeting (auction) will be held at the First Alliance Church. The meeting will begin at 7:30 PM and there is no stop time.
- The December meeting will be held at the First Alliance Church.
- Fox hunts, so far we have no takers to chair.
- A discussion was held on purchasing a digital recorder for the secretary. A motion and second to spend up to \$80 for a Sony device. Charles WB4DCM will acquire it.

New Business:

- The nominating committee will be chaired by Chuck K4HF. He selected two others to serve with him. All directors, chairmen, webmaster, VP and Treasurer are up for election.

There were no Board comments. The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 pm.

Minutes of the RARS General Meeting on September 2, 2008

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society held its monthly meeting on September 2, 2008 at the Forest Hills Baptist Church on Dixie Trail in Raleigh, NC. The meeting was called to order by President Selene KG4RMT at 7:35 pm. There were 57 members and guests present.

The following guests were introduced: Jon KJ4DAK, Beth Adkins, Brooks Bowman, Carl KJ4ELV, and Gary Orlando. In addition, there were three students from NC State seeking help on a project. They were Jason Sander-son, Scottie Carter, and Josh Park.

The three students then took the floor and described the project that they were working on. They want to use two tethered balloons at high altitude to test the concept of using satellites to relay control data to an object on the ground. They are looking at a completion date of March-April 2009 and would appreciate all help.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as published in the *Exciter*.

Treasurer Greg KE4PAX advised that we now have a total membership of 199. At the end of last fiscal year we had 268.

President Selene then made the following announcements:

- Our monthly supper will be at the Golden Corral on Glenwood Ave on Tuesday, September 9. All are welcome.
- The Board meeting will be held at the Triangle Radio Reading Service on Six Forks Road on Tuesday, September 16.
- The Virginia Beach Hamfest is September 20/21.
- The October meeting will be held at the First Alliance Church. This is due to the annual auction and our current meeting place is not large enough.

The following committee reports were given:

- Education/SKYWARN Committee Virginia NC4VA reported that the August Tech Class produced 17 Techs,

4 Generals, and 2 Extras. She announced the SKYWARN Net for later that evening.

- Public Service Chair John AI4RT was not present so everyone was encouraged to go to the web site as there is lots of activity.
- RARSFest now has a date. It is April 18, 2009. That is a Saturday and the week after Easter (also, 3 days after the tax due date).
- Chuck K4HF reported that the Red Cross will need operators for the State Fair October 16-26. There will be 2-man, 5 hour shifts covering all hours of operation of the fair. Volunteers will need to attend a class. There remains the question as to whether volunteers will need to take three online FEMA courses. Please go to the RARS homepage and sign up. Admission will be provided to the fair, but we are on our own for parking.
- Chuck K4HF then advised that the QCWA would be holding its quarterly meeting at McCall's Restaurant in Clayton on Saturday, September 6. Be there at 11:30 am. In the event of adverse weather, he will publish a notice that the meeting will be cancelled.

President Selene announced that following the meeting that all are welcome to go out for supper.

The door prizes were won by Virginia NC4VA, Rod AB4RG, and George Herring.

VP Rick KB4TKQ introduced Bob K4RLC and Bob W4TTX who did a program on portable communications. First, Bob (W4TTX) defined what constituted portable operations. Then he described several ways to operate portable. Getting started you need to look at your skills, mode of transportation (how you are going to get all of that stuff to where you want it), and the environment that you will be operating in. Then Bob K4RLC discussed the backpack and weight of items, equipment, solar cells, etc. Now the other Bob (W4TTX) went through a discussion of batteries and antennas. The program was very well prepared and presented as well as interesting. Those of you that missed it, missed a good one.

President Selene reminded everyone that the NC State students would be around after the meeting to talk with folks; do not forget to join the after meeting event; and pick up your trash and put the room back like it was prior to our arrival.

Meeting adjourned 8:58 pm.



The **RARS Technical & Trader's net** is held on Saturday evenings on the 146.64 after the 8 pm RARS net.

Amateur Radio Nets



The **VOIP Hurricane net** is held Sundays at 00:00 UTC on the 146.775 repeater with a tone of 88.5 (IRLP node 4260). For information about activation details, go to www.voipwx.net.

Please join us on the **Carolina 440 net** every Monday night at 7:30 pm. This ragchew net utilizes the Carolina 440 UHF Link Repeater System. Comprised of the Raleigh, Down East, and Costal Wilmington link systems, there are currently 19 repeaters on the system, covering 21,168 square miles. For a list of these repeaters, please visit www.carolina440.net.



CAROLINA 440
UHF Link System
www.carolina440.net

Join us every evening at 8 pm on the 146.64 repeater for the **RARS Two Meter net**. You can give a ragchew, check in and out (this counts for our total numbers reported to the ARRL!), make announcements, and pass traffic. We also offer National Traffic System traffic training. All licensed stations are welcomed to participate in the net as often as they can. This net is also a great way to learn about amateur radio if you are newly licensed!

The **PCTN (Piedmont Coastal Traffic Net)** meets every night at 9 pm on the 146.88. The purpose of the net is to handle/pass NTS formal messages. Amateur stations are encouraged to check-in and participate. The backup repeater is the 147.105 machine with a PL tone of 82.5.





Join the **Tarheel Short Wave Listening (SWL) Special Interest Group (SIG)** net on Monday evenings @ 9 pm on 146.64. We discuss all areas of radio monitoring and welcome your logs! We also have a SWL/SIG meeting on the third Monday of the month in addition to our regular net.

Central Carolina SKYWARN

Please join us each Tuesday at 9:15 pm on the 146.88 repeater for the CCS net. On each net there are announcements, check-ins by county, and often a program or training spot. Check us out at www.centralcarolinaskywarn.net.

October 7: "Mobile Warning Alert Messaging Application: MAMA" by NWS Warning Coordination Meteorologist Jeff Orrock KI4KKX.

October 28: "Hydrologic Forecasting for Rivers" with NWS Meteorologist-in-Charge Darin Figurskey KC2IPY.

October 28: Basic Spotter Training. Open to the public. See page



The **Wake County ARES** net meets Thursdays around 2115 on the 146.88 repeater. We provide discussion and training for the implementation and provision of Emergency Communications for our served agencies, such as the American Red Cross and the local and state Emergency Operations Center. Please join us. www.wakeares.org.

Same net – new name! The Mercury Amateur Radio Association Southeast 2 Meter net is becoming the **Apex Emergency Response Communications net (Apex ERC)**. The name change is effective March 30, 2008. The net will still meet at 9 pm Sunday evenings on the 146.64 repeater (temporarily). All stations are invited to participate in this net. The organization provides emergency communication support to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. The purpose of this net is to assist ham radio operators in preparing to respond to emergencies, test their equipment, improve operating skills, pass traffic, and to provide those with a common interest an opportunity to meet.

The RARS

~~Exciter~~

Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc
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Upcoming Public Service Opportunities

October 18/19: Easter Seals Ride Without Limits. A new 2-day ride from Wake Forest to Butner and back. Overnight at YMCA camp Kanada.

November 1: Beach to Battleship Triathlon, Wilmington. Folks in southern NC or the Myrtle Beach area might be interested in this one.

November 2: City of Oaks Raleigh Marathon – 2nd annual run. Come on out for an exciting 1/2 day event.

More details and sign-up information can be found on links from the ham public service calendar at www.hampublicservice.org.

Check out www.RARS.org for public service opportunities!